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U.S.-MIDEAST

BY KENNETH J. FREED

WASHINGTON (AP)-THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION IS INCREASINGLY UNEASY ABOUT A LACK OF SOVIET RESTRAINT IN THE NEW MIDDLE EAST WAR, BUT U.S. OFFICIALS ARE NOT YET WILLING TO PUBLICLY CHARGE MOSCOW WITH IRRESPONSIBILITY.

THE CONCERN OVER SOVIET ATTITUDES IS LIMITED AT THIS TIME TO WHAT THE RUSSIANS ARE SAYING. THE OFFICIALS SAY THERE IS NO INDICATION NOW THAT MOSCOW INTENDS TO GET INVOLVED DIRECTLY OR WILL SUPPLY LARGE NEW SHIPMENTS OF ARMS TO THE ARABS.

THE OFFICIALS ARE CAUTIOUS IN THEIR JUDGMENT OF THE SOVIET ROLE FOR TWO REASONS: THEY DON'T WANT TO GO ON THE RECORD WITH A F

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FOR TWO REASONS: THEY DON'T WANT TO GO ON THE RECORD WITH A FIRM ASSESSMENT THAT MIGHT QUICKLY BE PROVED WRONG, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A SHOUTING MATCH WITH MOSCOW.

SO FAR, THE OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE, THIS HAS BEEN A RELATIVELY ONE-SIDED SITUATION. THE SOVIETS HAVE CHARGED ISRAEL WITH AGGRESSION, AND THEIR UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADOR, JACOB MALIK, SAID TUESDAY NIGHT THAT ISRAELI LEADERS ARE "INTERNATIONAL CRIMINALS."

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